

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 03872 011607Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 L-03 STR-04

INT-05 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /120 W
----- 066876

R 011444Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4397

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS FREETOWN 3872

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EMIN ECIN

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION (IBA) MEETING

REF: FREETOWN 3854

1. SUMMARY: FREETOWN MEETING OF IBA WAS OPENED BY PRESIDENT STEVENS WHO PREDICTABLY CALLED FOR COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS, DECRIED LOW RAW MATERIAL AND HIGH PROCESSED PRICES AND THE SUPPOSED RESULTANT HIGH PROFITS. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE WAS NOTABLE IN ITS CRITICISM OF ONE IBA MEMBER, AUSTRALIA. MEETING SO FAR HAS BEEN OCCUPIED WITH PROCEDURAL MATTERS. END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT SIACA STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE OPENED THE THIRD
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PAGE 02 FREETO 03872 011607Z

MINISTERS MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION

(IBA) IN FREETOWN NOVEMBER 29. IN HIS OPENING SPEECH HE CALLED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MEMBER STATES' INCOMES FROM THEIR BAUXITE INDUSTRIES. HE SPOKE OF THE "EVER-WIDENING GAP" BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS--THE DIFFERENCE IN SELLING PRICES RECEIVED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS OPPOSED TO THE COST OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS SOLD BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES--AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION, UNITY AND CONCERTED ACTION BY PRODUCING COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT STEVENS DESCRIBED AS "PLAINLY DISASTROUS" THE SITUATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SELLING THEIR RAW MATERIALS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ONLY TO BUY THEM BACK AFTER PROCESSING AT "TWENTY OR THIRTY TIMES THE PRICES FOR WHICH THEY WERE SOLD." PRESIDENT STEVENS CALLED ON THE DELEGATES TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEMS OF VALUATION, PRICING AND MARKETING OF BAUXITE AND ALUMINUM. STEVENS CALLED FOR CAUTION IN THE FIXATION OF THE PRICE OF BAUXITE, SAYING "CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE GREATEST GOOD FOR BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS ALUMINUM PRODUCERS.

3. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MEETING INCLUDED COMMENTS THAT AUSTRALIA IS PRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION WITH SOME PROBLEMS. ONE NEWSPAPER STATED THAT AUSTRALIA'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE IBA IS DEPENDENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. AN EDITORIAL IN THE SAME PAPER WAS CRITICAL OF AUSTRALIA, STATING THAT AUSTRALIA IS "PROVING A BIT DIFFICULT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED:

"AT THE GUYANA MEETING LAST YEAR AUSTRALIA REFUSED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE MINIMUM PRICING POLICY WHICH WAS REACHED BY THE REST OF THE CLUB OF ELEVEN ... THE AUSTRALIAN POSITION WAS CERTAINLY TAKEN OUT OF ITS DESIRE TO SATISFY THE DEVELOPED WORLD AND ITS MULTI-NATIONAL COMBINES, BUT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION... THE REST OF THE IBA MEMBERS HAVE A RIGHT TO USE ANY ECONOMIC MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS, AND CONVERSELY IT IS NOT THE DUTY OF AUSTRALIA TO DETERMINE WHAT IS GOOD FOR THEM. ... AUSTRALIA, AS THE MOST DEVELOPED OF THE CLUB OF ELEVEN HAS NO RIGHT TO DICTATE TERMS, NOR THE IMMORAL DUTY TO BRING ABOUT A DISINTEGRATION OF THE IBA."

4. THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MEETING HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP PRIMARILY WITH PROCEDURAL MATTERS INCLUDING ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 FREETO 03872 011607Z

BEGIN DECEMBER 1 OR 2.
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: EMIN, ECIN, SL, IBA, (STEVENS, SIAKA P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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